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TO : Personal Assistant to the Director, CIA

DATE: 25 SEP 1950

FROM : Assistant Director for Reports and Estimates

SUBJECT: Request from the Joint Chiefs of Staff for an ORE assessment  
of the Adequacy of Reporting from the Philippines

1. In response to your oral request an assessment of deficiencies in intelligence information reporting on military, political, and economic matters from the Philippines has been made by ORE and is attached hereto.

2. The effect of the October 1949 reductions in staffs of service attaches on the national intelligence effort was reported to the Director of Central Intelligence by AD/ORE memorandum of 10 August 1950. The portion of this report concerning the Philippines reads as follows:

"Since the elimination of Army and Air attaches in Manila, military reporting has declined in quantity, quality, and scope. Current information lacks many elements essential for intelligence production. Order of battle data and reorganization measures are not reported promptly, and so far as is known, the Office of Naval Attache does not include any officer qualified to report on ground force operations - the principal military activity in the Philippines."

3. For your additional information it is pertinent to note that ORE currently receives virtually no Joint United States Military Advisory Group (JUSMAG) reports from the Philippines.

4. ORE can supply more detailed information concerning the subject of this memorandum upon request.

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Comments on Intelligence Reporting from the Philippines

Military

Reporting on military developments is inadequate in quantity, quality and timeliness. Following are outstanding weaknesses:

1. CIA receives practically no reports on operations of the Philippine military forces.
2. Order of battle data are not reported promptly and consistently. In particular information concerning the reorganized status of military commands and units frequently lacks detail necessary for analysis and is generally slow in reaching CIA.
3. Very little current information has been provided CIA concerning the utilization and effectiveness of US military aid to the Philippine Armed Forces.
4. Reporting on Communist-led Huk movements and activities is lacking in detail and continuity.
5. There is a particular lack of specific information concerning Philippine vulnerabilities to sabotage and corrective security measures.

Political

Reporting on political developments, although occasionally excellent, is not consistently good in quality, quantity or timeliness. More frequent specific information concerning President Quirino's political position and prospects is particularly required for accurate analysis.

Economic

Reporting on basic economic developments is good in quality but could be improved in quantity and timeliness. There is an especial need for more frequent reporting on the Government's financial position and prospects.

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From 2/72  
21 Sept 1950  
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